

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7723  
INFO COMCIEDOR

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IC  
SUBJECT: YOUNG IP CONVENTION JABS SENIOR IP POLICY

1. SUMMARY: UNDER BANNER OFQUOTE DOWN WITH CUREAUCRACY  
AGAINST INFLATION UNQUOTE, MEMBERS OF YOUNG INDEPENDENTS  
(SUS) HELD THREE-DAY CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 16-18. MAIN  
BUSINESS WAS ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRMAN, BUT CONVENTION WAS  
HIGHLY CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON VARIETY OF ISSUES.  
DEBATE AVOIDED DEFENSE MATTERS, AND PROPOSAL TO SEEK COM-  
PENSATION FOR NATO BASE PRESENCE KILLED. END SUMMARY.

2. YOUNG INDEPENDENCE PARTY (SUS) HELD 24TH BIENNIAL CON-  
VENTION IN WESTMAN ISLANDS SEPTEMBER 16-18. WITH INCUMBENT  
FRIDRIK SOPHUSSON DECLINING TO RUN FOR THIRD TERM, ELECTION  
OF NEW CHAIRMAN WAS UPPERMOST IN MINDS OF 240 DELEGATES WHO  
WERE, FOR MOST PART, CHOSEN BY RIVAL CANDIDATES THEMSELVES.  
JON MAGNUSSON, LAWYER AND LEADER OF REYKJAVIK YOUNG IP'S  
WAS EASY WINNER.

3. SUS HAS TRADITION OF NOT FOLLOWING STRICT PARTY  
LINE, AND THIS CONGRESS WAS NO EXCEPTION. IT CHARGED  
GOVERNMENT WITH FAILING TO REACH ECONOMIC GOALS AND  
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WAS CRITICAL OF IP POLICY ON HOUSING, TAXATION,  
AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, JUDICIARY AFFAIRS, AND ELECTORAL  
REFORM. IN DEBATE OVER COOPERATION WITH COALITION  
PARTNER PROGRESSIVE PARTY, PRAGMATISM WON OUT, AND  
NO RESOLUTION CALLING FOR END TO THEIR PARTNERSHIP WAS  
BROUGHT UP ALTHOUGH MANY (PERHAPS MAJORITY) WOULD  
HAVE SUPPORTED IT. STRONGEST PRAISE FOR PARTY

WAS IN CONNECTION WITH FISHERIES ISSUES SINCE DELEGATES FELT THAT FIRMLY NATIONALISTIC LINE TAKEN AT 1975 SUS CONVENTION HAD BEEN FOLLOWED BY GOVERNMENT. CONVERSELY, SHARPEST BARBS AT PARTY WERE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS WHERE YOUNG IP RECOMMENDATIONS HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY IGNORED.

4. SUS BLAMED GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO ATTACK INFLATION HEAD-ON, AND AGAIN ADVISED THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO LIMIT GOVERNMENT ENCROACHMENT INTO AREAS THAT SHOULD BE LEFT TO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. CONVENTION CALLED FOR CUT-BACK IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT AND REVISED TAXATION SYSTEM THAT WOULD PUT MORE MONEY IN HANDS OF WORKERS. YOUNG IP'S, WHO TEND TO BE MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN PARTY AS WHOLE, REALIZE THAT GOVERNMENT'S HANDS MAY NOW BE TIED BECAUSE OF LAST LABOR AGREEMENT, BUT BLAMED PARTY FOR GETTING INTO THIS FIX IN FIRST PLACE.

5. EXECUTIVE BOARD HAD CONVENTION WELL-ORCHESTRATED BUT THREE UNANTICIPATED RESOLUTIONS WERE RAISED: INSTITUTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES TAX, END TO AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES, AND IMPOSING A CHARGE FOR IDF PRESENCE. ALL THREE QUICKLY REFERRED TO BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION THEREBY KILLING PROPOSALS.

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6. COMMENT: LEADERS OF YOUNG INDEPENDENTS HAVE WAY OF PERCOLATING UP INTO POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP IN PARTY AS A WHOLE (PRIME MINISTER IS BUT ONE EXAMPLE). PREVIOUS CHAIRMAN CURRENTLY/MP, SOPHUSON NOW SEEKING PLACE ON ALTHING LIST, AND MAGNUSON LIKELY TO FOLLOW. THEREFORE WHILE RESOLUTIONS MAY NOT HAVE IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON PARTY POLICY, YOUTH WING OF IP CANNOT BE WRITTEN OFF AS "BUNCH OF KIDS". BY SAME TOKEN, WE LOOK AT PROPOSAL TO IMPOSE CHARGE ON NATO BASE WITH SOME CONCERN. IN THIS CASE, RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED BY YOUNG INDEPENDENT ON FRINGE OF PARTY SO IT CANNOT BE REGARDED AS INDICATIVE OF VIEWS OF SIZEABLE NUMBER OF SUS MEMBERS. VERY FACT THAT SUBJECT WAS RAISED, HOWEVER, IN CONTRAST TO ABSENCE OF DISCUSSION ON IDF DURING OTHER RECENT SUS CONVENTIONS, IS SOMETHING WE SHOULD NOT OVERLOOK. MAGNUSON IS PRO-US, PRO-NATO, AND ANTI-COMPENSATION BUT LIKE HIS PREDECESSOR HE SEEMS WILLING TO ENCOURAGE RATHER THAN STIFLE DEBATE ON BASE ISSUE. KILLING OF COMPENSATION RESOLUTION AT CONVENTION DOES NOT MEAN END OF DISCUSSION ON IT, EVEN WITHIN YOUNG IP. CHRISTENSEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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